

## **AULGFC Chairperson's Report 2017/18 Season**

The 2017/18 season was my first season as Chairman of Aylesbury United Ladies & Girls FC and I can safely say it has been an eventful but thoroughly enjoyable one. There's not been a day go by where I haven't learnt something new about the club and ladies football.

I have asked the Managers to write a short report of how the season went for their teams and they are below;

### **Ladies team**

The 2017/18 season was not the most successful for the Ladies team but was very enjoyable none the less. The team spirit and 'never give up' attitude of all the ladies made for a positive season even if the results were not always what was deserved. Playing in the Thames Valley Counties Women's Football League Division 2, Aylesbury United came 8th although just 1 point from 6th. During the season there were some very good performances but the limited out and out pace and natural goal scoring ability upfront it meant that we often drew or lost games although dominating.

We had a large signed on squad during the season although due to family commitments, players at university, shift workers and school work it meant that many were often not available. We had 27 signed on at the start of the season and gained a further 10 more during the campaign. Of those only 29 actually played for us and only 15 players had 10 or more appearances.

Phil Reeves was assisting Mark as coach during the season but after 10 years with the club he is stepping down. He will be missed by the ladies but I suspect we will still see him at games. Beth Cameron will be taking on the main coaching duties in the coming season having completed her Level-1 coaching qualification with Mark supporting her and managing the team. We have already gained new players for the 2018/19 season and confidence is high for a better season ahead.

### **Social Ladies team**

The social team has been running since October 2016. A year ago, the social team had a good number of ladies attending every week but hit a dip during the winter when numbers dropped. The dip was enough to cause concern and was raised at a committee meeting where ideas were put forward on how to improve numbers. Due to Sara MC's hard work and contacts with the BB FA a banner was made for us FOC and put up at Aqua Vale advertising the team. This worked well and numbers steadily increased making them a viable team once more with 15 core members renewing at each 12 week block. The team has recently become a 'Mars Just Play Centre' which includes advertising as well as cash and equipment. MC also won an award from the BBFA for 'Best Inclusive Project' and it was presented to Sara MC by Reading Women's manager Kelly Chambers.

### **Under 15 team**

The season started off the same as another, the only difference being the U15's gained some new players from the disbanded U14's.

Straight away the new players gelled well with the well-established U15's and you could see the difference these players made.

The U15's went from being a mid-table team to title contenders and tournament winners. Each player grew in their own areas and made squad selection very difficult. The confidence in the team was outstanding and the leadership shown by Kate and Chloe as the captain and vice captain spurred the team on.

The defensive line were solid with Mollie taking special mention for some of the saves she made throughout the season.

### **Under 13 team**

This season the girls went from 7 aside to 9 aside playing on a bigger pitch with larger goals. The girls adapted to this quite quickly winning the U13 south league and coming second in the premier league after Christmas.

We've had two new coaches join this season Brandon Howard and Alex Webster as well as 5 new girls join ready for next season

We are now working on taking the girls from 9 aside to 11 aside and different teams from the beds league joining us.

### **U9-U11s**

We finished last season with 21 girls playing in 2 teams with 3 coaches. We now have 51 girls (excluding the 18 that came to the recent taster session!), 3 teams (although will be more next season) and 8 coaches. The group is going from strength to strength both in terms of numbers and the development of the girls. Achievement wise:

- U10 Reds Beds/Bucks Spring Cup Winners
- U10 Reds BGFL Cup finalists
- U10 Chesham United Tournament winners
- U11 Chesham United Tournament finalists
- U10 Thatcham Town Tournament finalists
- U10 Aylesbury United Tournament winners (including 3 teams into the semi-finals)
- U10 Launton Tournament finalists (including 3 teams into the semi-finals)
- U11 Kempston Tournament winners
- 5 girls at Wycombe Development Centre
- 1 girl had trial with Chelsea
- 1 girl had trial with Tottenham

As you have heard, we have grown in numbers particularly in the younger age groups over the course which aligns to our goal of making football available to as many ladies and girls in the area as we can. We have also consciously tried to get all age groups involved in activities together more so that the younger ones can see the progression through the club to the Ladies squad. We've had club trips to Wembley and Reading Ladies matches. Also, the end of season presentation awards was a big success and one that I would like to improve on for next season. Huge thanks to Ellen White for giving up her afternoon to present all the awards and to everyone who helped with the planning, and organising on the day.

The main thing that has really struck me this season is how much work goes on away from the football pitch behind the scenes. The Managers and coaches spend a huge amount of time planning training, organising the team, liaising with other teams attending courses and are part of the clubs committee.

The committee members work tirelessly behind the scenes, booking pitches, submitting registrations, ensuring all coaches have the right checks & qualifications, writing policies & the handbook, updating the our website, agreeing and collecting subs, organising Christmas parties, taster sessions and attending monthly committee meetings. These are just a taster of what goes on behind the scenes and they can be time consuming.

This season the club has again shown its support for local charities Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity (FNHC) and WheelPower. Players and parents from the U13s ran Aylesbury's Santa Dash to raise funds for FNHC and donated a signed England Ladies football shirt which was auctioned for £165. And, for the third year running, players, coaches and family from across the club cycled the Mix96 Tour de Vale, raising £1,385 for WheelPower.

One thing that has become quite clear to me as the season has come to a close is that if we are to continue to grow and develop as a football club we need many more volunteers. So if you are able to give up any of your valuable time and become involved in the club in any way, however little, please let me know.

Thanks,  
Debs